

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-11, 13-16 and 18-33 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 3, 12 and 17 are cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended by essentially incorporating the subject matter of claim 3. Claim 3 has accordingly been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action states that claims 14-16 and 18-33 are allowed, and claims 4-6 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in complete independent form.

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-3, 7-11 and 13 under 35 USC 103(a) in view of Anderson et al taken with Sugiyama et al. The cited references do not make the presently claimed invention to be obvious.

Please note that claim 1 has been amended pursuant to the above, wherein the ink-receptive layer comprises (1) inorganic fine particles having a specific average particle size, (2) a hydrophilic binder and (3) an inorganic and/or organic pigment.

The Office Action states (page 3, paragraph 5) that “Anderson further teaches that the ink receptor media comprises cationic polymers that are pigment particles (col. 9, lines 62-65).” The applicants respectfully disagree with this interpretation of the reference for the following reasons.

Anderson discloses an ink fixing agent to be contained in a material (see column 9, line 54 to column 10, line 30 of reference). Anderson discloses at column 9, line 55, that “(a) material that provides further water resistance and pigment or dye fixing may be provided in or over part or all of the ink receptor.” and on line 62 of the

same, the reference discloses that “(t)hese materials are primarily cationic polymers and/or inorganic salts having a multivalent cation.”

Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand these sentences to mean that the cationic polymers and/or inorganic salts having a multivalent cation is/are materials that provide(s) further water resistance (of the recorded ink) and pigment or dye fixing (of the recorded ink) be provided in or over part or all of the ink receptor. Accordingly, the pigment and dye described in Anderson et al. should be understood as a coloring component to be contained in a recording ink and should not be interpreted as “the cationic polymer is a pigment.”

The applicants point out proof of the above at column 9, lines 63-65 of Anderson, which discloses that “(t)he cationic polymers are believed to mordant dyes and pigment particles.” In this context, if the cationic polymer is interpreted to be a pigment, then the skilled artisan would understand that the term “to mordant” would contradict this interpretation.

Moreover, the reference at column 9, lines 66-67, sets forth the expression of “the pigment particles in the ink.” The applicants firmly assert that a person of ordinary skill would understand the expression to clearly show that the pigment particles are contained not “in the ink-receptive layer” but rather “in the ink.”

Thus in view of the above discussion, the applicants submit that in Anderson et al. the cationic polymer contained in the recording material is described to be a pigment particle.

With respect to the presently claimed invention, by adding an inorganic pigment and/or an organic pigment to an ink-receptive layer, back transcription of ink can be prevented and surface glare in which outer light is reflected on the surface of the

recording material can be lowered as explained on page 11, lines 15-20 of the present specification. The actual effects of adding inorganic/organic pigment to an ink-receptive layer are described in the working Examples described at page 21, line 16 to page 32, line 13 of the present specification.

More specifically, Example 1 (page 21, line 16 to page 23, line 6 of specification) employs inorganic pigment in the ink-receptive layer. The inorganic pigment is wet process silica (page 22, line 23 of specification), which is an example of the pigment described at page 11, line 29 of the specification. Example 7 (page 28, lines 22-30 of specification) employs removal of wet process silica from an ink-receptive layer, as described at page 28, lines 26-27.

When comparing the results of Example 1 with the results of Example 7, the results of back transcription of ink, feeding property and visibility of Example 1 shown in Table 1 on page 30 of the specification, are superior to those of Example 7.

Further, it is illustrative of the patentability of the presently claimed invention when comparing the results of Examples 3 or 4 with those of Example 2. Example 3 (page 26, line 25 to page 27, line 9 of specification) employs wet process silica as an inorganic pigment. Example 4 (page 27, lines 11-31) employs polystyrene particles (which is an example of the organic pigment, described at page 11, line 26). Example 2 (page 25, line 12 to page 26 line 23) does not contain any inorganic/organic pigment in the ink-receptive layer. Upon comparison of Examples 3 or 4 with Example 2, all of the characteristics of Examples 3 or 4 are superior to those of Example 2, as shown in Table 1 on page 30 of the specification.

The teachings of Sugiyama et al. do not remedy the many deficiencies of Anderson et al. described above.

Thus, in view of the above discussions and experimental evidence, the applicants submit that the presently claimed invention (as for example recited in above amended claim 1) is fully allowable under Section 103(a) in view of the combined teachings of Anderson et al. and Sugiyama et al.

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 3, 7-11 and 13 under 35 USC 103(a) over Anderson et al., in view of Sugiyama et al. and Kitamura et al. The cited references do not make the presently claimed invention to be obvious.

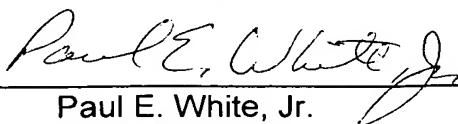
The teachings of Anderson et al. have been thoroughly distinguished from the presently claimed invention, pursuant to the above in-depth analysis and discussion. The applicants submit that the teachings of Sugiyama et al and Kitamura et al. do not remedy the many deficiencies of Anderson et al.

Accordingly, in view of the above discussions and experimental evidence, the applicants submit that the presently claimed invention (as for example recited in above amended claim 1) is fully allowable under Section 103(a) in view of the combined teachings of Anderson et al., Sugiyama et al., and Kitamura et al.

In view of the above, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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